

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is respectfully solicited.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. For the purpose of responsiveness, Applicants provisionally elect the subject matter of Group I including Claims 1-13.

In Applicants' view, claim 17 and claim 18 cannot be classified as either independent or distinct; and search of one would require a search coextensive with the field of search for the other.

Applicants also traverse the statement in paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action, to the effect, "[A]s broadly claimed, the subcombination is not patentable." (April 10, 2003 Office Action, page 2, paragraph 4.) The Patent Office cannot simply hold a claim not patentable, in the absence of competent evidence; no such evidence is of record or has been applied against the claim.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112. The claims have been rewritten in view of the Examiner's criticisms at page 4 of the Office Action, lines 4, *et seq.*

The proposed claims are based on the original claims as follows-

Amended Claim	Pending Claim
19	1, 6
20	2
21	3
22	3 ("preferably-part")
23	4
24	4 ("preferably-part")
25	5
26	6

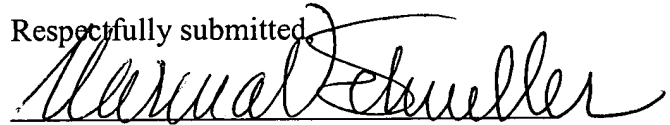
Amended Claim	Pending Claim
27	6 ("preferably-part")
28	7
29	8
30	9
31	10
32	11
33	12
34	13
35	15
36	12
37	12

Claims 1-16 have been renumbered as Claim 19 *et seq.* New Claim 35 is based on prior Claim 15.

Claims 36 and 37 are based on Claim 12. An early allowance is respectfully solicited.

Date: July 31, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marina V. Schneller", written over a horizontal line.

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